

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 MC-02

EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 TRSE-00 GAC-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /106 W
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R 041050 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5291

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1660

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, RO

SUBJ: ARMED SERVICES PROCUREMENT: ROMANIA

REFS: A) FRANKFURT 2405; B) BUCHAREST 1149

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH TERRA TO CLARIFY QUESTION FO COMMUNICATIONS, GOR OFFICIALS CONCURRED WITH METHOD SUGGESTED BY CONGEN. THAT IS, COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN APA AND ROMANIAN EMBASSY, COLOGNE SHOULD BE DIRECT, USING GERMAN POSTAL SYSTEM, AND NEED NOT PASS THROUGH CONGEN AS CORRESPONDENCE CHANNEL. BOTH FOR INTERNAL USE WITHIN APA AND FOR COMMUNICATION WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY COLOGNE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OR CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE DISREGARDED. TERRA OFFICIALS SAID THAT EVEN USE OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY AS INTERMEDIATE COMMUNICATIONS POINT WOULD BE DISCONTINUED AFTER GOR CONCLUDED FIRST SALE TO APA.

2. GOR OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY WILL EXPLAIN THIS PROCEDURE TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY, COLOGNE, AND WILL INSTRUCT ROMANIAN REPS TO MAINTAIN CLOSER, DIRECT CONTACT WITH APA. ONCE THESE LINES ARE ESTABLISHED, GREATER USE OF GOR CHANNELS SHOULD CONSIDERABLY REDUCE CONGEN' S WORK REQUIREMENT ON THIS PROGRAM.

3. TERRA OFFICIALS ALSO ASKED US TO REPEAT INVITATION TO
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VETERINARY INSPECTORS (REF B, PARA 1 C).

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF CONGEN IN ASSISTING US TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACT BETWEEN GOR OFFICIALS AND APA. WE CONSIDER INVOLVEMENT OF CONGEN TEMPORARY SITUATION ONLY WHICH SHOULD CHANGE AS SOON AS BUSINESS RELATIONS BETWEEN GOR AND APA ARE MORE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.

5. FYI ROMANIAN SENSITIVITY OVER CONFIDENTIALITY OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAS CLEARLY BEEN CAUSED BY FEARS OVER SOVIET AND OTHER WARSAW PACT REACTIONS IF IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT ROMANIA HAS ENTERED INTO DEALINGS WITH US ARMED FORCES, EVEN IN SUCH AN INNOCUOUS AREA. WHILE ROMANIA IS WILLING TO RUN SOME RISKS OF CRITICISM IN PURSUIT OF ITS INDEPENDENT NATIONAL INTEREST, IT PREFERS TO KEEP STRAINS WITH ITS COMMUNIST BROTHERS AT MINIMUM AND, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD NOT WISH TO UNDERGO CRITICISM IF ARRANGEMENT SHOULD PROVE UNPRODUCTIVE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT GOR IS PROBABLY SENSITIVE NOT ONLY TO LIKELY CRITICISM FROM OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT ALSO POTENTIAL CRITICISM FROM INTERNAL ELEMENTS DOUBTFUL ABOUT WHETHER ROMANIA'S INDEPENDENT COURSE IS REALLY WISE. EVEN MINOR MEASURES THAT PROVE UNPRODUCTIVE COULD BE HANDLED FOR BROADER CRITICISM SO GOR PREFERS TO HOLD INNOVATIVE STEPS IN SMALL CIRCLE UNTIL PROVEN PRODUCTIVE.

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